

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the Figure 9 description with the following amended description:

Figure 9 is a schematic drawing of an unassembled carrier constituting ~~and an~~ embodiment of the invention;

Replace the specification paragraphs beginning with the first full paragraph on page 6, with the following amended paragraphs:

Figures 1 to 4 schematically illustrate a case constituting a first embodiment of the present invention. As shown in figure 1, a front panel 2 is attached to a rear panel 4 via a first hinge region 6. The front and rear panels 2 and 4 may be made from a single sheet of material and the hinge 6 may simply be formed by a fold between the panels 2 and 4. However, the hinge ~~region~~ 6 may comprise first and second sub-hinges connecting the front panel 2 to a wall portion, and the wall portion to the ~~second rear~~ panel 4, respectively, as shown in greater detail in figure 3. The rear panel 4 carries a protective region 8 in which the object enclosed by the case is normally located. The protective region 8 may be formed by a further sheet 10 of material attached to the second ~~portion-panel~~ 4 at a peripheral region thereof, or attached to the second ~~portion-panel~~ 4 by an intermediate ~~wall~~ wall 12, as shown in figure 3, in order to form a pocket.

A carriage 14 is attached to the front ~~portion-panel~~ 2 at a second hinge region 16. The hinges ~~regions~~ 6 and 16 are parallel with each other but laterally offset with respect to one another. The hinge ~~region~~ 16 may be formed as two hinges 18 and 20 disposed either side of an interconnecting wall 22. The hinges 18 and 20 may easily be formed by folds in the material constituting the carriage 14. The carriage carries a ~~pocketed-region~~ 24 thereon which is defined by a further sheet of material 26 which is disposed above the carriage 14 and is joined therewith along an end portion 28. The pocket 24 serves to hold the object, such as a CD, thereby ensuring that the CD moves with the carriage 14. For ease, the further sheet 26 may simply be a folded back portion of a sheet of material forming the carriage itself.

Figure 3 shows the case in the closed configuration. Thus ~~the~~ an end 28 of the carriage ~~28-14~~ is disposed towards ~~an end~~ the wall 12 of the case. The CD is therefore held almost entirely within a protected region. However, when the case is opened the carriage slides out of the protected region in order to present the object for removal. Figure 4 illustrates the case in a partially opened configuration. It will be appreciated that when the case is fully opened the front ~~portion-panel 2~~ lays-lies substantially in the same plane as the rear ~~portion-panel 4~~. During the opening process, the front and rear ~~portions~~ panels 2 and 4 pivot with respect to one another around the hinge 6 which in this example is a composite hinge formed of two hinges separated by an intermediate wall. Comparing the position of the second hinge 16 with respect to the first hinge 6, it can be seen that in figure 3 the second hinge 16 ~~lays-lies~~ between the first hinge 6 and the end wall 12, that is to the right of hinge 6 as shown in figure 3; whereas in figure 4 the hinge 16 is moving away from that position and when the case is fully opened the second hinge 16 will lie to the left-hand side of the first hinge 6. This repositioning of the second hinge 16 from one side of the ~~main-first~~ hinge 6 to the other side thereof is transmitted to the carriage 14 and hence causes the carriage 14 to become partly withdrawn from the protective region 8. This in turn moves the object, such as the CD to a position where it can be grasped and removed from the case.

Returning to ~~figure~~ Figure 1, it can be seen that a cutaway 40 is formed in the upper surface of the protective region 8, and a cutaway 42 is formed in the upper surface 26 of the carriage 14 (Figure 2). When the case is in the open configuration, these cutaways align allowing a user to reach through these regions and to place their finger in the central hole which is formed in CDs and similar data carriers. This facilitates the extraction of the data carrier from the case.

Figures 5a and 5b schematically illustrate a modification to the carrier in plan view and a cross section, respectively. A disk shaped projection 46 is disposed on the ~~carrier~~ carriage 14 in such a position that it will align with the central portion of a CD or other data carrier when the CD is held within the case. The projection 46 serves to ensure that the data bearing portion of the disk does not abut directly with the material of the ~~carrier~~ carriage 14. In a further embellishment, a second projection of a small diameter may be centrally disposed on the ~~first~~ projection 46 so as to partially or fully extend through a central hole within the data carrier in order to secure it in position. However, it

is expected that this feature will not be often used in practice as the dimensions of the pocket 24 are such that the periphery of the data carrier is in close proximity to the side walls of the pocket and hence the carrier is not free to slide about therein.

Figure 6 is a cross section through a double case constituting an embodiment of the present invention. Parts of the case shown in ~~figure~~Figure 6 are very similar to parts of the case described with reference to ~~figures~~Figures 1 to 4 and like reference numerals would be used for like parts where appropriate. The case shown in ~~figure~~Figure 6 has a rear ~~portion~~panel 4 which carries a protective region 8 in the form of a pocket thereon. A front panel 2 is hingeably connected to the rear panel 4 via a hinge ~~region~~6 which itself comprises first and second hinges 50 and 52 formed either side of an ~~immediate~~intermediate wall 54 which itself may optionally have a centrally disposed hinge ~~region~~56. An intermediate panel 60 is provided which is hingeably attached to the back panel 4 at a hinge region generally indicated 62. A carriage 14 of the type disclosed hereinbefore is hingeably attached to a rear surface 63 of the intermediate element 60 via a hinge 64 which is laterally displaced from the hinge region 6. The intermediate element 60 also carries a protective region 8' on a side thereof facing towards the front panel 2 when the case is in a closed configuration. A further carriage 14' is associated with the intermediate panel 60 and the further carriage 14' is hinged to the front panel 2 at a hinge 66 which is also offset from the hinge region 6. Thus data carriers can be inserted or removed from either protective region 8 or 8' by opening the carrier in much the same manner as one opens a book to reveal the correct page.

The front ~~panel cover~~2 may in fact be formed by two sheets of material 70 and 72 connected together at their periphery, but having one open end 74 to form a slot through which a data card or booklet may be pushed in order to hold it securely between the ~~covers~~sheets 70 and 72. An end stop 74 is formed in order to prevent the booklet progressing too far into the space between the sheets 70 and 72 and thereby becoming inaccessible. Cut outs provided in the region of the slot 74 in order to facilitate manual grasping of the data card in order to retrieve it.

The market for CDs and DVDs has developed such that DVDs are presented in thicker cases although there is no intrinsic technical reason for doing this. Figures 7 and 8 schematically illustrate cross sections through embodiments of the present invention

which are deliberately formed so as to be thicker in order to facilitate acceptance of the invention for storage and transport of DVDs. In order to facilitate the extra thickness box sections are formed in order to increase the depth of the case. Each of ~~figures~~Figures 7 and 8 is a cross section through the central portion of the case, and hence end walls would close the sections that are illustrated. Hinges ~~regions~~ are represented by the dots 80. Construction is otherwise similar to that described with reference to the CD cases in ~~figures~~Figures 1 to 6.

Figure 9 illustrates an unassembled version of the ~~carrier~~case shown in ~~figure~~Figure 1, showing dotted lines where the folds are made such that when folded the assembled carrier is formed. The solid lines show where the cuts are made. The ~~carrier~~case can be formed out on a single sheet of material, such as flexible card and folded at the indicated positions to provide the assembled ~~carrier~~case. Thus a first panel ~~region~~2a (which in use will form the front panel 2) is attached to a second panel ~~region~~4a. One or more scores may be made in the card (or other suitable material) to define hinges. In this example two scores have been made to define hinges 160 and 162 that co-operate to form the hinge shown in Figure 3. The second panel is also attached to a third panel 10 which in use is folded over the second panel 4a to form the ~~protected~~protective region 8. The third panel 10 is advantageously positioned on the opposite side of the second panel 4a to the first panel 2a as this makes the manufacture of the product easier to automate given the restricted range of automated folds that can be reasonably easily made on a production line.

~~The carrier portion~~A carriage panel 14a is attached to a further ~~portion~~panel 24a which in use is folded over the carriage ~~portion~~panel 14a to form the pocket 24. To provide an easily manufacturable product the carriage is also attached to a ~~further~~intermediate panel 113 which itself is attached to the first panel 2 along a fold line 115 which is perpendicular to the fold line 160. i.e. perpendicular to hinge 6.

~~During manufacture the~~Intermediate panel 113 is folded over (along fold 115) to lie against the first panel ~~region~~2. The panels 113 and 2 can be adhered together. However, more beneficially a further flap 116 hingeably attached to the first panel ~~region~~2a along a fold line 118 opposite the fold line 115 is provided such that the flap 116 can be adhered to the intermediate panel 113 to hold it in the folded position and in so doing a

pocket is formed between the panels 2a and 113. Furthermore an end stop can be defined in the pocket by providing a booklet stop tab 122. Thus if the flap 116 is folded over to lie against the panel 2a and the stop tab 122 is adhered to the panel 2a, and then the ~~portion-intermediate panel~~ 113 is folded over and adhered only to the flap 116 a pocket having an internal obstruction to stop items such as CD album inserts falling out of the hinge end of the pocket is provided.

The carriage panel 14a is cut such that it is slightly smaller in width than the ~~inside front cover~~intermediate panel 113 at positions 130 and 132. Folding along the dotted lines 18 and 20 forms the hinge 16 for the carriage 14. The carriage panel 14a and the ~~inner disc pocket~~panel 24a are cut at an angle as shown in figure 9 to substantially match the shape of a CD when the inner ~~disc pocket~~panel 24a is folded at hinge 28 onto the carriage panel 14a. The hinge 28 is provided with a slot 134 therein which helps to hold the CD in place. The ~~outer disc pocket~~third panel 10 is folded along the dotted lines 140, 142 over the ~~back cover~~second panel 4a which, in use forms the rear panel 4. Flaps 152 and 154 are folded about the lines 144, 146, 148 and 150 and are glued to the upper surface of the ~~back cover~~panel 4a to form the pocket. The whole assembly is then folded along the dotted lines 160 and 162 to form the hinge to open and close the carrier.

The principles of the present invention can be applied to cases for other items, such as cigarettes. An example of a cigarette packet constituting an embodiment of the present invention is shown in Figures 10a, 10b and 10c. Figure 10a shows a packet in a generally closed configuration. The packet comprises a lid 200 which is hingeably attached to a base 202 along a hinge line 204. The cigarettes are held in a carriage 206 which is connected to the lid via an arrangement comprising folds in cardboard extending from the upper end of the carriage 206 in order to define a first hinge 208, a second hinge 210 and an intermediate wall 212. The hinges 208 and 210 are offset from the hinge 204 between the lid 200 and the base 202 in such a way, as shown in Figure 10c, that the opening of the lid in parts motion to the carriage 206 from the bottom of the cigarette packet and lifts the cigarettes up for easier extraction.

Figure 11 shows a further blank constituting an embodiment of the present invention. The blank is in many ways similar to that shown in Figure 9. However the panel 14 is cut to have thinned region 220 and additional tabs 222 and 224 are formed on